

Message Text

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INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5969

DEPT FOR EUR/HARTMAN

DEF FOR PM/VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO

SUBJ: DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES

SUMMARY: THE CURRENT SITUATION OF INDISCIPLINE IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES IS RECOGNIZED BY PORTUGUESE LEADERS AS THEIR MOST PRESSING PROBLEM. ADDITIONAL EXPOSURE TO U.S. AND ALLIED MILITARY ACTIVITIES BY JUNIOR OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCO'S COULD HAVE A BENEIFICIAL EFFECT. END SUMMAR

1. THE STATE OF DISCIPLINE IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT LEADERS. ANY POTENTIAL FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROGRESS IS INHIBITED BY THESE PROBLEMS OF INDISCIPLINE WHICH, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ARE WIDESPREAD AT PRESENT. THIS SITUATION MUST BE REVERSED BEFORE THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CAN ATTAIN AND MAINTAIN STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY.

2. PAST TRAINING TOURS TO U.S. AND ALLIED MILITARY UNITS IN EUROPE THROUGH MAP FUNDING HAVE RECEIVED EXTREMELY CONFIDENTIAL

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FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL IN REGARD

TO THE FRIENDLY, BUT FIRM DISCIPLINE DISPLAYED BY U.S. UNITS. PORTUGUESE OFFICERS MAKING THE TOURS ARE UNANIMOUS IN SAYING THEY HAVE BENEFITED FROM THEM. THE TOURS WERE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN DEMONSTRATING STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE. OTHER BENEFITS OF THIS PROGRAM ARE THE PERSONAL CONTACTS IT BUILDS UP AND THE PROFESSIONAL PRIDE CREATED BY ASSOCIATION WITH US FORCES. STRONG PRO-AMERICAN FEELINGS ARE ALSO ENGENDERED.

3. I BELIEVE THAT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE USG AND NATO TO ASSIST PORTUGAL IN RETURNING THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES TO A STATE OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE. GIVE THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM I URGE AN EXPANSION IN OUR TRAINING TOURS TO US AND ALLIED UNITS IN EUROPE. THE CURRENT MAAG TRAINING PROGRAM IS COMPLETELY SUBSCRIBED AND THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH AN EXPANSION.

4. IT IS REQUESTED (A) THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EXPAND THIS PROGRAM; (B) THAT USCINCEUR BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT OF HIS COMMAND IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS TRAINING; AND (C) THAT NATO ALLIES BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND SIMILAR PROGRAMS.
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